Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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R 012140Z OCT 74 FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4637 INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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PASS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

EO 11652 NA

TAGS EWWT PFOR TECH OEXC CA UR SUBJ PROPOSED SOVIET INLAND WATER TRANSPORT TEAM

- 1. AT REQUEST OF W.M. JARVIS, MEMBER EAST EUROPEAN DIVISON, TCO CALLED AT EXTAFF SEPT. 30 TO BE ADVISED THAT USSR HAS PROPOSED INLAND NAVIGABLE WATERWAYS TEAM FROM RFSSR RPT RFSSR MINISTRY OF THE RIVER FLEET VISIT CANADA UNDER SOVIET-CANADIAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM. NEITHER NAMES NOR NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ARE AVAILABLE YET, BUT TEAM WOULD SPEND ABOUT TWO WEEKS IN CANADA BEGINNING APPROXIMATELY NOVEMBER 20. CANADIAN TEAM WOULD RECIPROCATE VISIT ON SOME FUTURE OCCASION.
- 2. JARVIS INDICATED HE WAS INFORMING EMBASSY BECAUSE OF COMMON INTERESTS OF BOTH GOVERNMENT IN GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY SYSTEM, INCLUDING SEAWAY. NORMAL SECURITY CHECKS ON SOVIET TEAM WILL BE DONE ONCE NAMES ARE AVAILABLE AND THIS WILL BE COORDINATED WITH USG AUTHORITIES ACCORDING TO STANDARD PRACTICE. HE FELT THAT USG MIGHT WELCOME ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS PROPOSED VISIT FROM A SUBSTANTIVE VIEWPOINT AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE ANY COMMENTS WE

MIGHT WISH TO MAKE.

- 3. USSR HAS PROPOSED FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES FOR VISIT:
- A. CANADIAN EXPERIENCE IN MAINTENANCE OF NAVIGABLE INLAND WATERWAYS;
- B. MAINTENANCE OF HYDRO-TECHNICAL STRUCTURES;
- C. METHODS OF PROLONGING NAVIGATIONAL SEASON IN WATERWAYS:
- D. AUTOMATIC CONTROL OF CANAL LOCKS:
- E. METHODS OF INCREASING VOLUME OF TRAFFIC THROUGH CANALS;
- F. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LOCK GATES IN WINTER.
- 4. JARVIS FURTHER INDICATED THAT CANADA HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO RECEIVE THIS TEAM AND HAS SUGGESTED VISITS TO PORTS OF MONTREAL, TORONTO, TROIS RIVIERES AND QUEBEC, AS WELL AS WELLAND CANAL, AND HYDRAULIC LABORATORIES AT MONTREAL. CANADA IS NOT PROPOSING ANY VISITS TO JOINT FACILITIES SUCH AS ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY. FINALLY, CANADA MAY MODIFY PROPOSED OBJECTIVES INDICATED ABOVE. BUT HAS NOT FOCUSSED ON THIS YET.

5. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED WHETHER ANY SIMILAR DELEGATION HAS VISITED OR SCHEDULED TO VISIT US UNDER EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH USSR.

B. IT IS POSSIBLE SOVIETS WILL INDICATE WISH TO VISIT ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY -- EITHER COMPLETE SYSTEM OR CANADIAN PORTION ONLY -- AND IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR EMBASSY TO HAVE USG VIEW FOR COMMUNICATION TO JARVIS. C. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO WELCOME ANY GENERAL COMMENTS THAT MAY BE PASSED TO JARVIS PER HIS SUGGESTION IN PARA 2 ABOVE.

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